



BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

GRAND
MAL

Manga

DARK HORSE
COMICS

BUBBLEGUM
CRISIS
1 OF 4

\$2.50 US
\$3.40 CAN





AH,
THERE
THEY ARE.

MECHANICAL
IMAGERY.

THE SAME
THINGS APPEAR
EVERY TIME,
NOW...

APPARENTLY MY RUINED
EXCUSE FOR A TEMPORAL
LOBE PREFERENCES ITS SYMBOLISM
ON THE OBVIOUS SIDE.

AND,
COMING
UP--

--OUR FEATURE
PRESENTATION--

--UNCONTROLLABLE
VIOLENCE.

NECESSARILY
DIRECTED AT
MYSELF, AGAIN.

Vi

ce

HOPE THIS
TIME WON'T
BE TOO
DAMAGING...

I'M RUNNING OUT OF
PIECES OF MYSELF
TO SACRIFICE.

WELL, HERE
IT COMES.

WHAT
BETTER
WAY--

--TO CELEBRATE MY
TRIUMPHANT
RETURN TO
MEGATOKYO--?

A.D. 2031

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"MEGATOKYO!"

"A PROUD PHOENIX
RISING TRIUMPHANT
FROM THE ASHES OF THE
2025 GREAT KANTO
EARTHQUAKE--"
-GREATER TOKYO
BOARD OF TOURISM

"OH, WORLD'S LARGEST
COMPANY TOWN--"

"A CRIPPLED WHORE,
PROSTRATE AT THE FEET
OF MASTER GENOM--"

"YOUR STREETS CHOKED
WITH GENOM'S GAIJIN
AND GENOM'S BOOMERS--"
-SASANISHIKI AKIRA,
"STREET POET"

"BIG CITY"
-PRISS (retro-thrash rock Singer)

VIDEO
SAMPLE

--INITIAL 7.9
TREMBLOR ONLY
KILLED SAY, EIGHTY
OR NINETY THOUSAND
OUTRIGHT--

--BUT
THESE
FIRES--!!

WE'RE TALKING
SIX FIGURE
CASUALTIES, OR
EVEN SEVEN
FIGURE--

"TOKYO HOLOCAUST
IGNITES DOMESTIC AND
WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC
FIRESTORM--"

-UNIVERSAL MEDIA
NETWEB (BUSINESS)

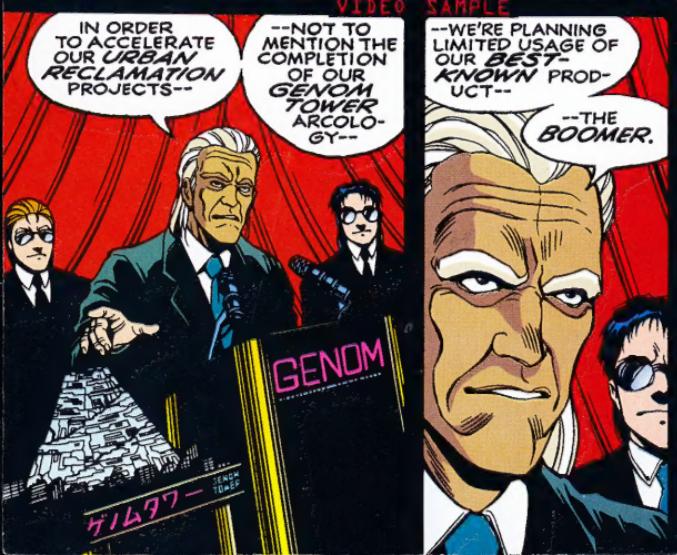
--GENOM CORPORATION
HAS EMERGED AS A MAJOR
PLAYER IN THE CHAOTIC
AFTERMATH--

-BBC BUSINESS UPDATE





"WHO THE HELL
IS GENOM?"
-U.S. PRESIDENT
DEIRDRE SHAW



WRUNKCH

"...A BOOMER IS AN ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORM."

VIDEO SAMPLE

CONTROVERSIAL "BOOMERS" SEEN HERE HARD AT WORK ON ONE OF GENOM'S "URBAN RECLAMATION" SITES.

BIG FELLOWS, AREN'T THEY...

RECLAMATION
WEEK 2
2007

"A SYNTHESIS OF MECHATRONICS, BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE..."

"...DESIGNED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMANS IN SPACE..."

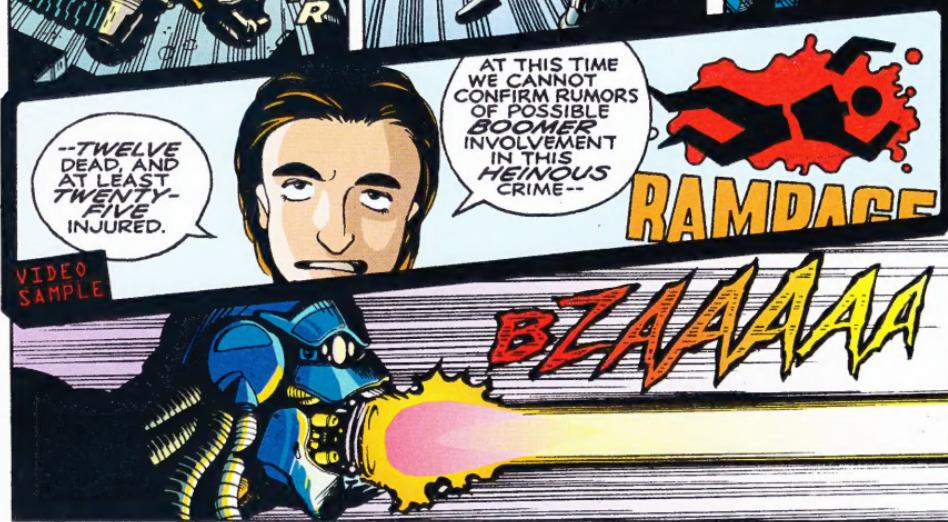
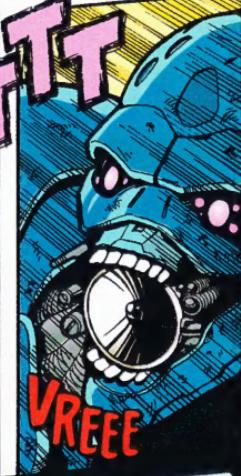
"...AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES..."

"TETSUO AND THE BIG BLUE BOOMER CHILDREN'S VIDEO!"

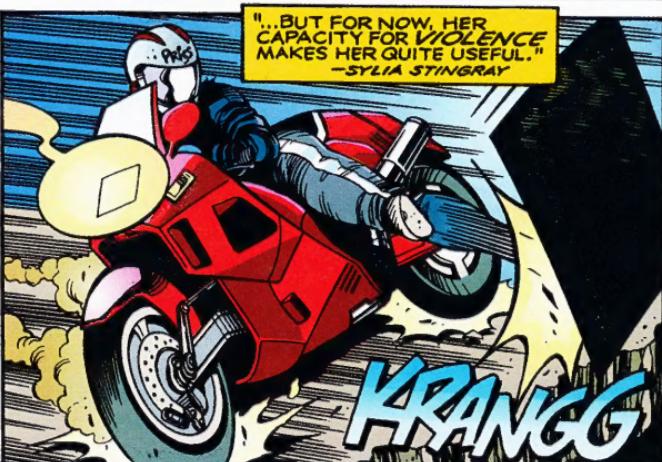
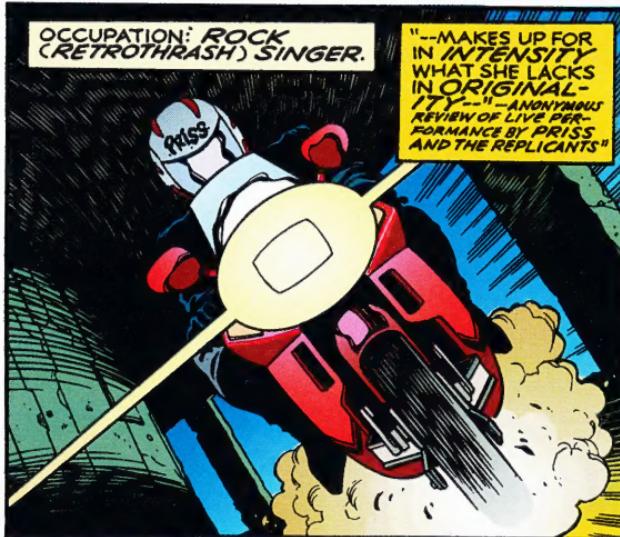
VIDEO SAMPLE

BOOMERS
AND YOU--

--A WINNING
COMBINATION
FOR A SAFE
FUTURE!



VIDEO
SAMPLE



--WHAT, IF I DON'T
THINK GENOM
IS ALL-GOOD
AND DESERVING OF
ALL MY LOVE!--

--AND
SAY SO--

--THEN PEOPLE
SAY I'M 'TOO
POLITICAL?'

THEY
CAN JUST
GO TO
HELL--

-PRISS,
IN INTERVIEW
WITH
WAJELMAC
MUSIC ZINE

VIDEO SAMPLE

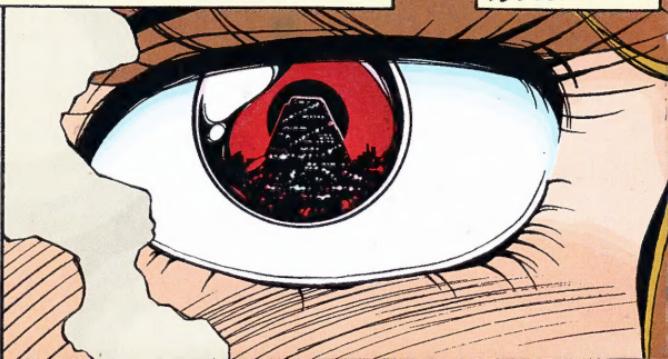
C'MON, PRISS,
YOU RAGE-
AHOLIC...!

DO SOMETHING
ANGRY AND
UNHINGED!

EXCERPT FROM COUNSEL-
ING SESSION (MANDATED
BY PLEA BARGAIN ON
ASSAULT CHARGES):

THERAPIST: "THAT'S QUITE A LOAD
OF UNHEALTHY ANGER YOU'RE
CARRYING THERE, PRISS..."

PRISS:
"BLEEP YOU."



EXCERPT FROM CONVERSATION RECORDED BETWEEN AD POLICE OFFICERS:

"HEY LEON..."

"...CHECK THIS OUT."

DISCTEK HR-120
HIGH DENSITY
OPTICAL-STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

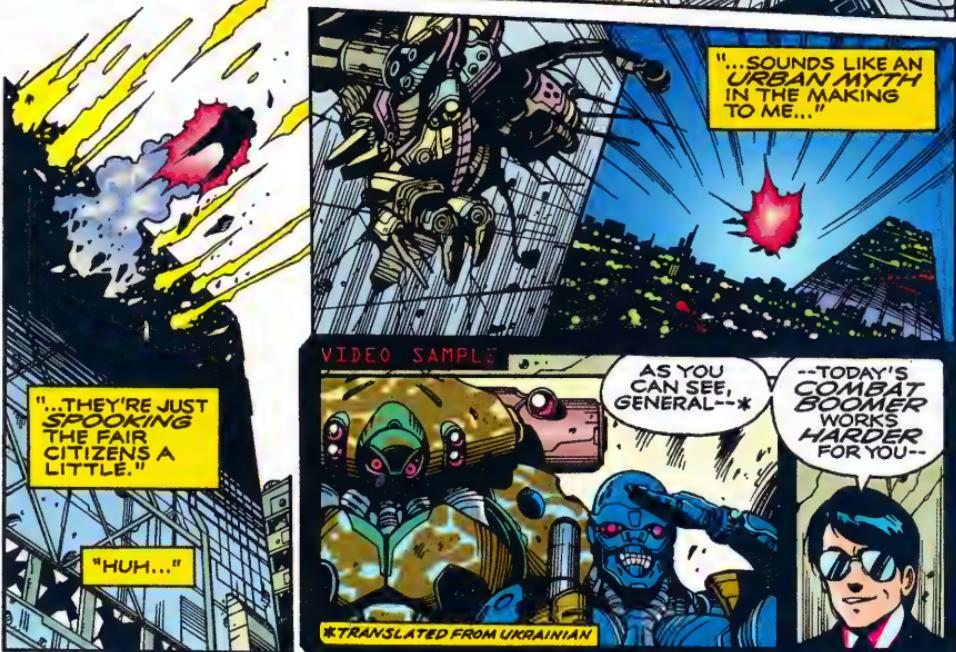
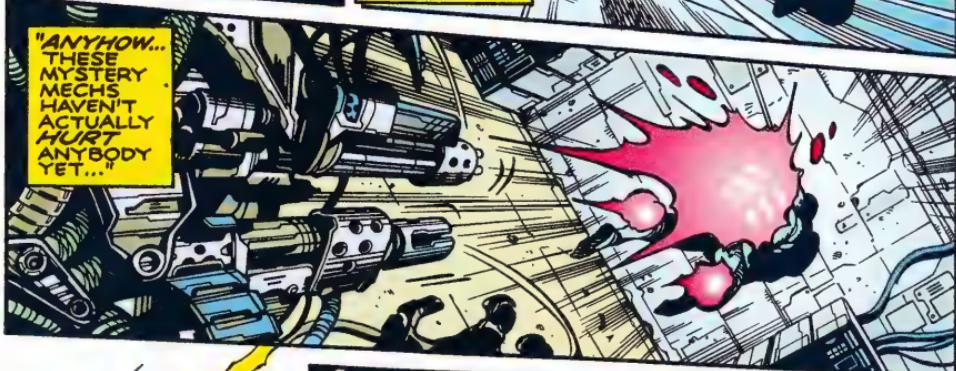
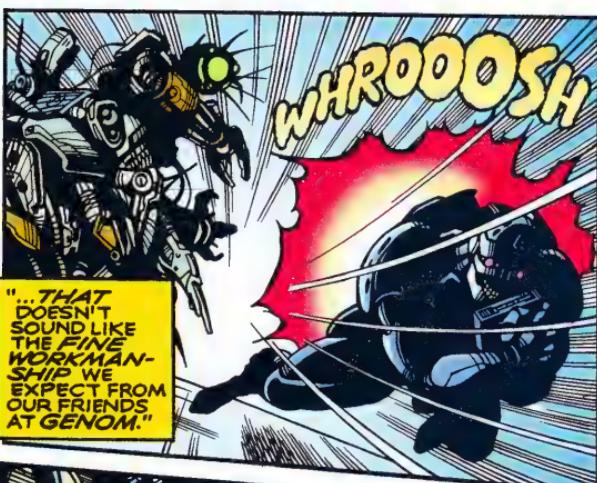
"WE GOT SIGHTINGS
OF QUOTE 'WEIRD
MECHS' IN THE RE-
CLAMATION ZONES."

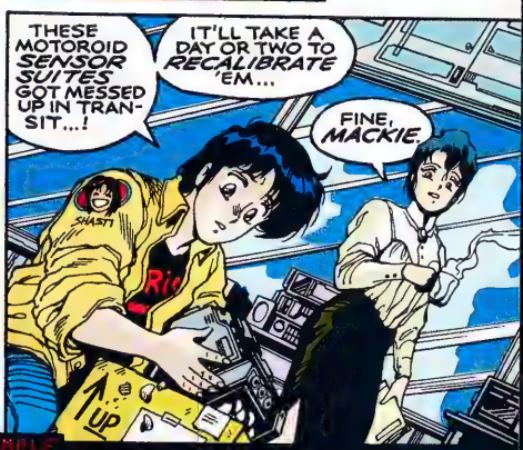
"WHAT, SOME NEW
TYPE OF BOOMER?"

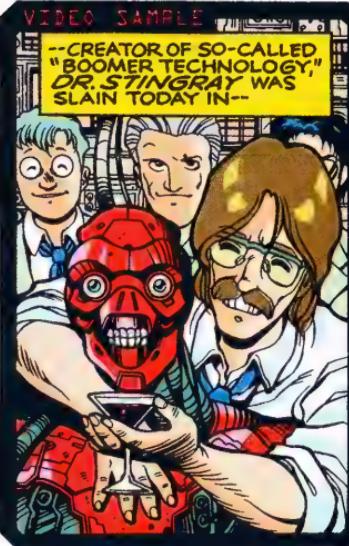
"NAH,
DON'T
THINK
SO..."

"THESE THINGS'RE
SUPPOSED TO
LOOK KIND OF
JURY-RIGGED..."

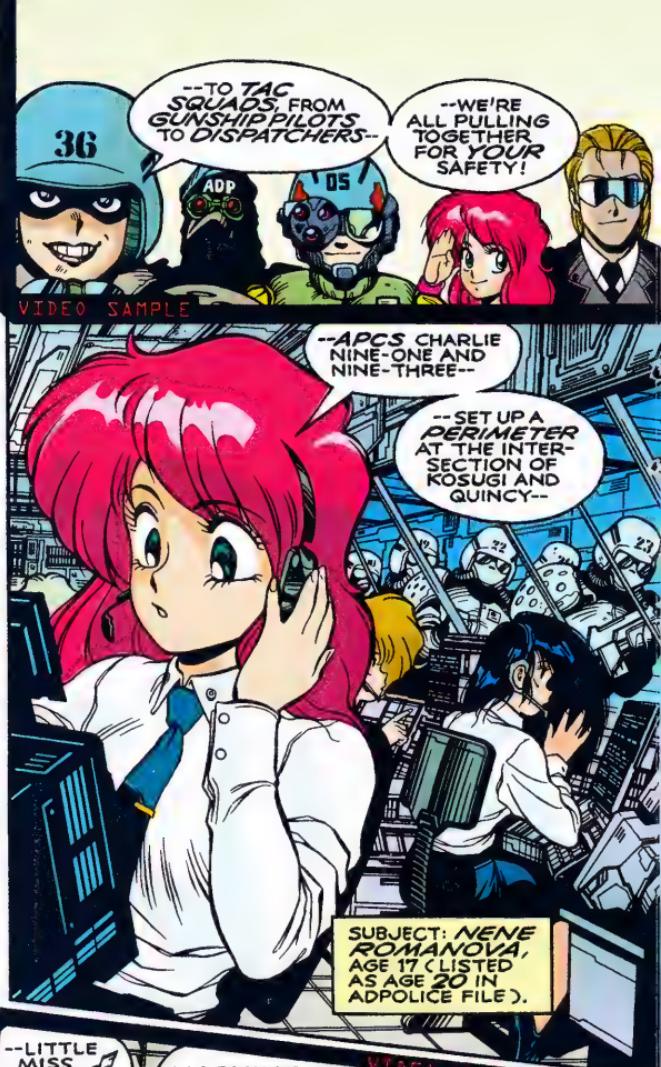
"...Y'KNOW,
PIECED
TOGETHER."







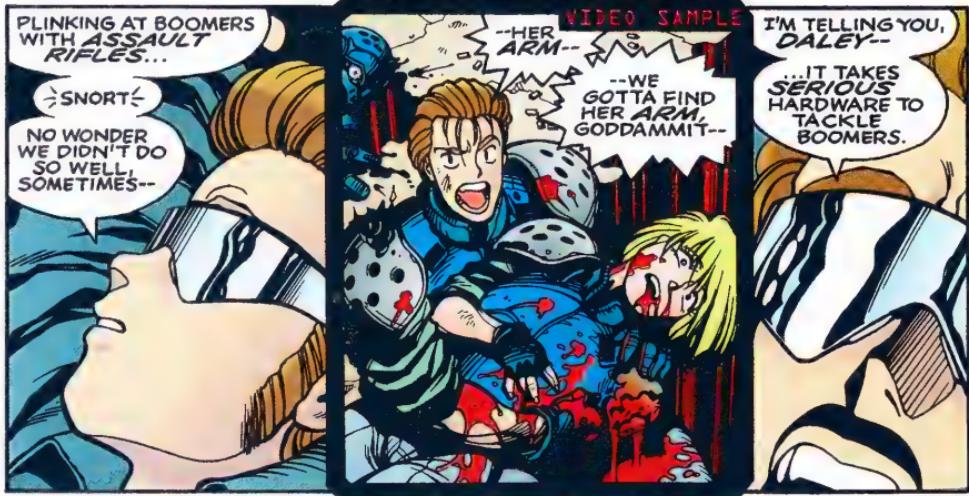


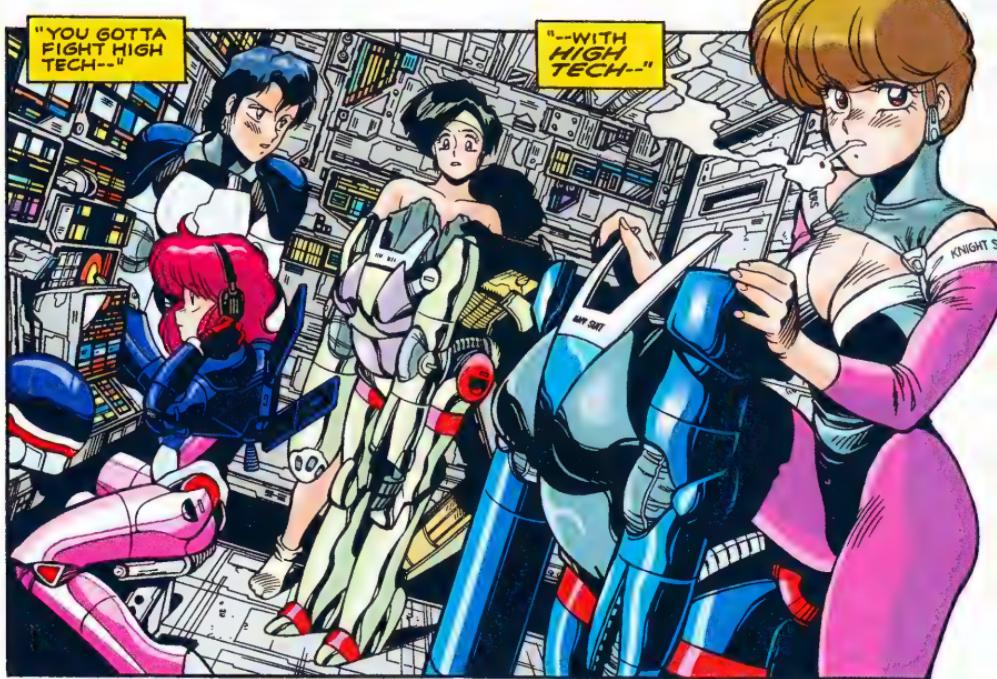












--GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES THE
"KNIGHT SABERS"
PUT AN END TO
YESTERDAY'S
BOOMER RAMPAGE--
-UNIVERSAL
MEDIA NETWEB
(TOKYO)

"HIGH-TECH VIGILANTES: A LOOK AT MEGA-TOKYO'S SHADOWY 'KNIGHT SABERS'"
-PACIFICA NEWSNET

"RUMORS OF 'KNIGHT SABERS' INVOLVEMENT IN CORPORATE MERCENARY ACTIVITY... MORE TONIGHT AT ELEVEN."
-UNIVERSAL MEDIA NETWEB (TOKYO)

--LOST IT? WELL, IT'S GOT TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE--

--THEY DON'T CARRY ENOUGH FUEL TO GET--

--DEPLOYING HIGH-RES INFRARED ARRAY--

--COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE--

--HOLD ON--

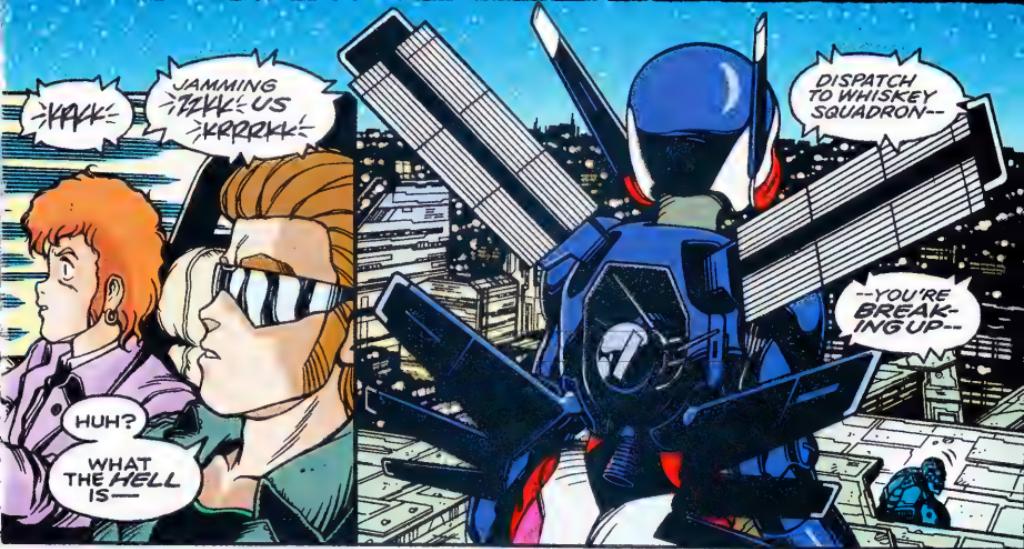
--WE'RE PICKING UP A CODED TRANSMISSION, STRONG--

--GIVE ME A FIX ON IT, NOW--

HEY
SKRKK!

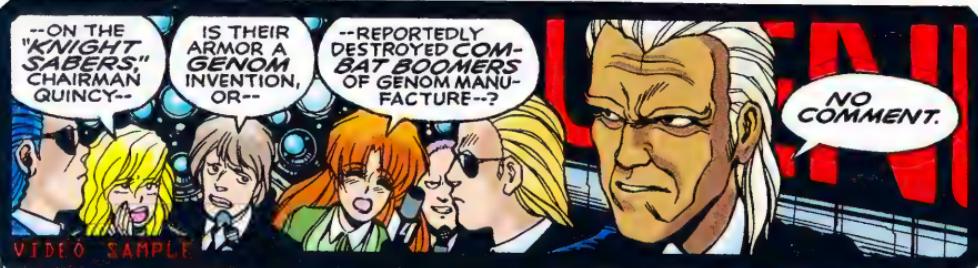
--GOTTA BE THE BOOMER SIGNALLING FOR HELP, OR--

SKRKK!
SOMEBODY'S JAMMING HIM--









VIDEO
SAMPLE

--THE "KNIGHT
SABERS"? THEY'RE
CRUCIAL
REALM!!

THE WAY
THEY FIGHT
SICKENING
VIOLENCE
WITH EVEN MORE
SICKENING
VIOLENCE--

--YOU
GOTTA
LOVE
IT--

Knight Sabers

KNOW
WHAT I LIKE
ABOUT THESE
"KNIGHT
SABERS",
DALEY?

THEY'VE
GOT GOOD
HAND-
WRITING.

YOU JUST
DON'T SEE
THAT TOO
OFTEN NOW-
ADAYS...

THEY'RE NOT
TOO SHABBY AT
SHREDDING
BOOMERS,
EITHER...

LOOK
AT
THIS!

HEY,
MACNICHOL--

--WE
FOUND
SOME
THING--!

'S A HIGH-CAPACITY
MEMORY MODULE.

THIS MODEL
GETS USED AS A
REMOVABLE
STORAGE
DEVICE FOR
BACKUP DATA,
USUALLY...

42

HUH...

WELL,
BETTER
CALL THE
TECHS.

DISCTEK HR 120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL-STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

EVIDENCE

LOOKS
LIKE A NEW
PUZZLE
FOR THEM
TO PLAY
WITH...

TO BE
CONTINUED.

word balloons

c/o Dark Horse Comics 10956 S.E. Main St., Milwaukie, Or. 97222



Bubble, bubble, Boomers cause trouble! Welcome to the world of **Bubblegum Crisis**! The comic you've just read is based on the Japanese animation "anime" series of the same name. Eight volumes have been released by AnimEigo in the US, and it's rapidly gaining popularity even as it did in its own native country.

With character designs by popular designer Kenichi Sonoda (*Riding Bean*, *Gall Force*), a driving rock soundtrack, and excellent quality of animation, it was only a matter of time before **Bubblegum Crisis** became a comic. Many comics, such as Masamune Shirow's *Appleseed* and *Black Magic* have inspired animation. Some animation series have gone full-circle, becoming comics. While there have been some brief stories of the Knight Sabers published in Japan, this is the first full-length series published anywhere.

Studio Proteus has made a name for itself not only publishing translated manga, but adapting anime characters to comics. Previous to

Bubblegum Crisis, Proteus produced four black-and-white series of the adventures of The Dirty Pair. For those interested, check the recent **The Dirty Pair: Sin Hell** from Dark Horse.

Crisis is plotted, pencilled, and inked by American manga-style artist Adam Warren. He's ably assisted by Robert DeJesus on inking and cover colors. BGC's covers are done animation cel-style, with Robert painting the colors onto acetate copies of the line art. Colors are also Joe Rosas' forte, who puzzled over an animation-style palette with Adam hanging over his shoulder. Lettering is provided by Tomoko Saito, whose work can be seen on many of Studio Proteus' other manga books.

In keeping with Dark Horse's celebration of Manga Month, we're having a special contest for **Bubblegum Crisis** fans. American manga maniacs, otaku, and anime addicts, now's your chance to show your stuff! It's time to play...

SPOT THE ANIME/MANGA CHARACTER!

In order to refine his manga style, Adam's looked at a lot of stuff, and you can see it popping up in issue one. Why look, isn't that Bean Bandit, from the video **Riding Bean**? Hey, could that be Yuri from **The Dirty Pair**? Hmm...

Send us your list of all characters 'guest starring' in this first issue and if you're right, you may receive a **Bubblegum Crisis** #1 video! All entries must be received by April 30, 1994. In the event of a tie (pretty likely, too) we will pick a winner in a random drawing from correct entries.

Contest aside, we're also looking for your comments! Did we do good? Did the bubble explode in our face? Let us know what you think!

Knight Sabers Sanjo!

—John Weeks

Bubblegum Crisis

THE VIDEO SERIES
THAT RADICALLY
REDEFINED JAPANESE
ANIMATION... AND INSPIRED
THIS COMIC BOOK!

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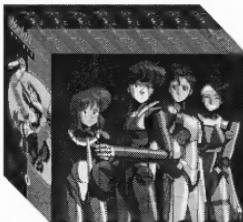
The GENOM Corporation is about to take over the world using its android "Boomers," and only one force stands in their way ...

The Knight Sabers, four female mercenaries in hi-tech "hardsuits."

8 Electrifying Episodes!

Hot new *SpineScene™* packaging turns your video shelf into a poster!

Japanese Language with English Subtitles
Not Rated (contains violence, adult situations, brief nudity)



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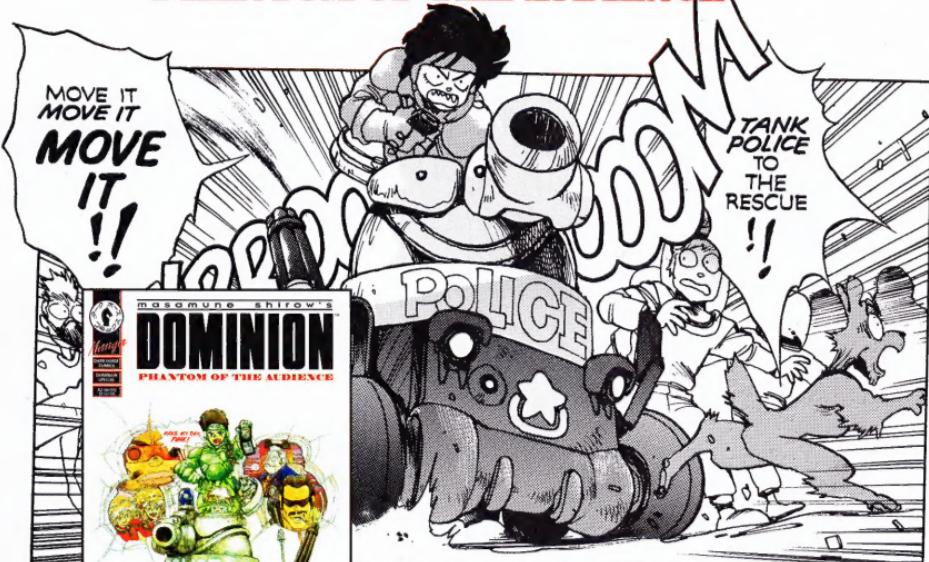
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IN THE FUTURE, THE POLICE ARE MORE FRIGHTENING THAN THE POSTAL EMPLOYEES!

masamune shirow's

DOMINION

PHANTOM OF THE AUDIENCE



It's kinda' like NYPD
BLACK and BLUE!

Written and illustrated by Masamune Shirow

Translated by Fred Schodt and Toren Smith

Painted cover by Masamune Shirow

MARCH



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